

Cyanobacteria Plan Needs Assessment: Coordination

Includes the mechanisms by which coordination occurs with stakeholders and recommendations for improvement especially with respect to the communication of health risk from blooms. The plan will include a diagram identifying stakeholders, their relationships, and their responsibilities.

Summary of NHDES Current Activities:

- Bloom response by NHDES cyanobacteria program in coordination with lake residents, lake users, other programs within NHDES, State Parks, and Fish and Game.
- Issuance of advisories requires NHDES contact with local public Health Officers.
- Information sharing between NHDES, other agencies, and external organizations to understand health risks and bloom management strategies.
- Support to drinking water suppliers when needed; standard response protocol used.
- Participation in regional and national communities of practice.

Key Needs:

- An efficient system for sample submission.
- A way for stakeholder organizations to help their members receive bloom updates.
- A forum for professionals and stakeholders to share information and update prevention and response strategies.
- Tools to increase awareness of veterinarians and medical professionals to recognize the symptoms and risks of cyanotoxins
- Solution to address rental property risk
- Develop New Hampshire-specific guidance for drinking water suppliers
- Refine online form available for reporting health impacts to reach doctors and vets

For each recommendation:

- *Can an immediate change be made to the current NHDES program?*
- *Are additional resources needed to implement the recommendation?*
- *Is legislative action or formal policy change required?*
- *What role(s), if any, would external partners play?*